

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8339

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MARR, IT, US

SUBJECT: INFORMAL CURTAILMENT ARMY ATTACHE TRAVEL

REF: ROME 15159

1. LOWER ECHELON BUT AUTHORITATIVE ITALIAN MILITARY SOURCE HAS INFORMED DAO COUNTERPART IN SERIES OF INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY CONTACTS THAT ITALIAN ARMY WOULD GREATLY PREFER THAT U.S. ARMY ATTACHES MAKE NO FURTHER VISITS TO ITALIAN ARMY INSTALLATIONS THIS CALENDAR YEAR. REASONING GIVEN IS THAT IN LIGHT OF EX-SID CHIEF MICELI'S ARREST AND ALLEGED RELATIONSHIP OF EX-ROME ATTACHE CLAVIO TO MICELI, THE ITALIAN PRESS IS NOW CAMPED OUT AT VARIOUS INSTALLATIONS KEEPING 24 HOUR WATCH FOR SUSPICIOUS DEVELOPMENTS. ITALIAN ARMY FEARS THAT PRESENCE OF US ATTACHES ON VISITS COULD LEAD TO PRESS SPECULATION HARMFUL TO BOTH US AND ITALIAN ARMY.

2. TRAVEL OF NAVAL AND AIR ATTACHES NOT AFFECTED TO DATE. SIMILARLY NO REPEAT NO RESTRICTIONS NOR HINTS OF SAME APPLY TO MAAG MISSION. IT IS UNDERSTANDING OF ATTACHES THAT OTHER NATO ALLIES'S ARMY ATTACHES ARE UNDER SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS AT MOMENT AND THAT BLOC ATTACHES ARE STILL FORBIDDEN TO VISIT ARMY INSTALLATIONS.

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3. TYPICALLY, SOURCE OF INFORMATION MADE CLEAR THAT OFFICIAL

US REQUESTS TO VISIT BASES WOULD NOT BE OFFICIALLY DENIED BUT
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DIE SLOW BUREAUCRATIC DEATH AND THAT
THEREFORE IN INTEREST OF CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP IT WOULD BE FAR
BETTER FOR US TO MAKE NO REQUESTS UNTIL WE GET SIGNAL IN EARLY
1975 THAT SITUATION HAS IMPROVED. HINT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND
NO OFFICIAL VISIT REQUESTS ARE PLANNED FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR.
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30 JUN 2005

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